

emergency response officials. The State Emergency Response Team, which includes state agencies and volunteer response organizations such as the American Red Cross and Salvation Army, will be activated over the next several days to respond to county requests. Eight swift water rescue teams are on standby statewide to conduct rescues in floodwaters if that becomes necessary. State law enforcement agencies have their personnel on alert as well. An Urban Search and Rescue Team and a Public Health Regional Response Team were activated this morning to assist Pender County with the tornado response.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been contacting operators of municipal and animal waste systems to advise them of precautions to take during hurricane season. DENR's Land Quality Section has activated its emergency response mode statewide, with all field personnel on alert in case of a dam emergency. Field staff from other agencies, including the Division of Water Quality, are on standby.

The Department of Transportation reported one road closing on Highway 210 in Pender County that has since been cleared. NC DOT has crews ready to respond to road washouts, set up detours and clear away debris. For highway conditions, visit <http://www.ncsmartlink.org> and click on "Real-Time Travel Info" or call 1-877-DOT4YOU.

In addition to monitoring local weather reports, citizens should prepare by assembling or updating their emergency supply kits. Having emergency kits ready will make evacuation and recovery easier. For a list of items suggested for an emergency kit, go to the Department of Crime Control's web site at <http://www.nccrimecontrol.org/> and click on "Emergency Info" and then "Supplies Checklist."

For flood safety information go to CCPS' web site at <http://www.nccrimecontrol.org/> and click on "Divisions," "Emergency Management," and "Severe Weather."

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